

Sherborne Chamber of Trade & Commerce

Minutes of the A.G.M. COT Meeting: 1800 hrs Wednesday 9th December 2020 By Zoom.

1. ATTENDANCE: Jane Wood (Chair), Taff Martin (Vice Chair), Nick Hunt (Treasurer), Lauren Ottewill (Co-ordinator), Lynda Martin (Secretary), Steve Lee, Keith Bawden, Ian Crichton, Andrew Maddock, Nigel Reeve, Laura Hitchcock, Carl Hankey

2. APOLOGIES: Mike Burke, (Tina Kerr is hoping to join us)

3. Minutes of the last AGM – 5th June 2019 & Matters arising.

These were emailed before the meeting – TM, KB & all accepted.
No matters arising.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT:

The report and copy of accounts were emailed before this meeting.
Nick pointed out a few things on the report, such as the balance being £23,912.
Things were slightly down due to website costs etc.
This year we have donated £1,000 to the food bank and £1,000 to the community kitchen.
No questions were raised so accounts were accepted by all.
There are 112 paid members for 2020.

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Well, what a year it's been! Firstly, my apologies that this AGM is taking place six months later than planned. We held off originally hoping we could meet in person in September but as the pandemic progressed it became clear that wouldn't be possible, so here we are. This year we say a sad farewell to Sue Smith who has been on the committee for 7 years, serving as VC, Chair and President in that time, bringing a wealth of knowledge and a level head to the committee. Sue has been a huge support to me in my time as Chairman and I know she'll still be supportive of the Chamber and the town.

It's definitely been a year none of us could have predicted. On a personal level, like many others, I've had to prioritise my own business and health over everything else, so the Chamber has had to take a bit of a back seat. That said, we've done our best to circulate information we've received from Dorset Chamber and Chris Loder's office that we thought would be helpful to members. We've also responded to requests for help from members and pointed them to people or organisations who can support them where at all possible.

Our big success story since the last AGM is the Sherborne Market. Following a fantastic trial market in June 2019 we handed the market over to the Sherborne Indies who contract the running of the monthly markets to Jules Bradburn. The planned launch in the spring had to be delayed but in June the market returned, cautiously at first but growing throughout the year until restrictions closed in once more. We look forward to seeing the market back next year with its host of wonderful individual stalls and entertainment.

Business breakfasts continued to be organised by Nigel Reeve from Marketing West and we look forward to them restarting when possible. Not only are they an opportunity to network but there is always something to be learned from the speaker. Nigel has recently launched the Sherborne Business Awards to support and celebrate businesses in the town. Entries are open until January 25th and there's a category for everybody. I'd like to thank Nigel for organising this Zoom for us tonight at no charge to the Chamber, it definitely wouldn't be running this smoothly if we were reliant on my technical expertise.

When the pandemic first arrived, the Chamber worked closely with both our members and Sherborne Indies to produce a flyer advertising delivery services for many of the independent businesses in the town. Since then, the Town Council have helped by funding posters and road markings around the town to help encourage people to come out and support the local businesses. We have just learned that funding has been made available to bring ShopAppy to 5 towns in

Dorset including Sherborne which will facilitate an online presence for all businesses in the town. The support network behind the scenes between business owners has really shown me what makes Sherborne special. Not only have businesses supported each other but we've helped create Sherborne Viral Kindness and Sherborne Community Kitchen, both of which have supported hundreds of vulnerable people in our community who have needed and continue to need help with shopping, medical appointments and food deliveries.

Going forward we hope to be able to organise our Conference which had to be postponed this year. This will combine several workshops and presentations with networking opportunities. We hope that restrictions will begin to lift in the new year which will enable businesses to return to previous levels of trade. As always, we encourage all members to share their news and events with us in order that we can publicise them. This weekend just gone should have been the annual Festive Shopping Day event and, much as it's a mammoth task to organise it, we've all missed it very much and hope it will be able to return next year bigger and better than ever.

We will now move on to the election of Committee Members. As it's been 18 months since the last AGM and a couple of members have stepped down with new members co-opted to replace them we'll now formally re-elect all the titled posts.

6. Election of new executive committee:

Position:	Name:	Proposed:	Seconded:
President	Jane Wood	TM	KB & LM
Chair	Keith Bawden	JW	TM & LM
Vice Chair	Taff Martin	KB	LO & NH
Treasurer	Nick Hunt	JW	TM & LM
Secretary	Lynda Martin	JW	KB & TM
Co-Ordinator	Lauren Ottewill	JW	KB & LM
Executive committee members:	Steve Lee	JW	TM & LM
	Ian Crighton	JW	TM & LM
	Barnaby Baker	JW	TM & LM
	Laura Hitchcock	TM	JW & KB
	Carl Hankey	TM	JW & LM
	Tina Kerr	JW	TM & LM

Everyone was welcomed to the committee !

7. AOB

AM - has raised £600.00 towards the new Defib. This was put on hold because of the current circumstances this year. All agreed to put this back on the agenda in January.

IC - Sherborne town council now have a new communications officer.

Discover Sherborne is live again so have a look. Sherborne community kitchen PR & Social media being used to promote this, also being sent to the Local community radio station Abbey 104.

NR - The business awards are going really well over 500 viewings on the launch video and over 300 on the website. There have been more entries than previous years.

This will take place on 25th January 2021.

Hopefully the business breakfast meetings will start again in March.

TM – Maybe we could look at having a Chamber Party or get together in February or March time.

KB will put on the agenda for January.

CH - Said hello and its nice to be on board.

LH – Also said hello and is looking forward to being able to help.

NH – A great big thank you from us all , to Sue for being President and Jane for being Chair too. A round of applause was given !

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 6.35pm

DATE OF NEXT MEETING - MONDAY 11th January 2021, 6pm – Olivers.